## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides an antiproliferative compound having a structural formula

$$R^3$$
 $R^4$ 
 $Y$ 
 $CH_3$ 
 $R^5$ 

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where X and Y independently are oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur; R<sup>1</sup> is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, carboxylic acid, carboxylate, carboxamide, ester, thioamide, thiolacid, thiolester. saccharide. alkoxy-linked saccharide, amine, sulfonate, sulfate. phosphate, alcohol, ethers or nitriles; R2 and R3 are hydrogen or R4; R4 benzyl carboxylic is methyl, acid, benzyl carboxylate, carboxamide, benzylester, saccharide or amine; and R<sup>5</sup> is alkenyl; where when Y is nitrogen, said nitrogen is substituted with R<sup>6</sup>, wherein R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or methyl. Also provided are methods for treating a cell proliferative disease and for inducing apoptosis in a cell comprising administering this compound is also provided.